Development of Chilka Lake as a tourist spot

2239. SHRI KANHU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the tourist spots to be developed in and around the Chilka Lake in Orissa;

(b) what is the Government programme for desilting the Chilka lake;

(c) whether Government are aware that the surroundings of the Chilka lake can be turned into a Marine Drive of the East; and

(d) if so, what is the Government's programmes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Identification of tourist spots, assessment of requirement of infrastructure and formulation of projects to meet the requirement, are done by the State Governments. The Central Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to States for creation of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments. On the basis of proopsals received from the Govt. of Orissa, the Ministry has sanctioned the following projects for Chilka lake and the tourist spots around it:—

(i) Motor Yacht for Chilka lake;

(ii) Boat for Chilka lake;

(iii) Water Sports at Chilka lake;

(iv) Yatri Niwas at Satpada.

(b) The Chilka lake is one of the wetland echo ssytems selected for conservation under the Wetland Programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The State Government of Orissa have also constituted a Steering Committee for Wetlands in Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Central Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to States for creation of tourism infrastructure at various tourist centres on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments provided the project falls within the purview of the approved plan schemes of the Ministry. Marine Drives, roads, etc. do not fall under any approved plan scheme of the Ministry.

Location of a Tourist Home in Amravati

2240. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state whether there in any proposal under Government's consideration to conduct a demand survey to locate a Tourist Home in Amarvti in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh in view of the increasing number of pligrims there, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): No, Sir. the Ministry of Tourism has not received any such proposal from the State Government.

Sale of ITDC units to the State Governments/Corporations

2241. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investment was made by ITDC in the shape of renovation / maintenance/addition / alteration and publicity of the properties before they were disposed of by way of closer/transfer to State Governments/Corporations; etc.

(b) if so, the details of the amount so spent in each case under the particular head of account showing separately while justifying the closer/transfer of each then most of other activities of ITDC claimed to be commercially viable have also been running into losses at the time of their transfer/closers;